

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1224

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8268

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: VISA APPLICATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE AT CPUSA CONVENTION

REF: MOSCOW 8191

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT TRAVEL OF THREE CPSU OFFICIALS TO US FOR CPUSA CONVENTION WOULD NOT RPT NOT POSE THREAT TO US NATIONAL SECURITY. THEIR ADMISSION, INDEED, WOULD SERVE SOME U.S. FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FREER MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, EVEN WHEN WE STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE VIEWS OF THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED. THE SOVIETS WOULD SEE IT AS A SIGNIFICANT AND WELCOME CHANGE IN OUR VISA POLICIES, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT IN THE FUTURE FOR THEM TO REFUSE VISAS TO PROMINENT US CITIZENS WITH WHOM THEY STRONGLY DISAGREE. IN THE CASE OF ONE OF THE THREE--MOSTOVETS--ADMISSION WOULD FACILITATE DEVELOPING EMBASSY CONTACT WITH KEY OFFICIAL IN CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPARATUS. (HE IS, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, US DESK OFFICER IN CC CPSU INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.) FOR THESE REASONS, WE BELIEVE CASE CAN BE MADE THAT ADMISSION OF GROUP IS IN US NATIONAL INTEREST.

2. WE RECOGNINZE, HOWEVER, THAT IT HAS BEEN LONG-STANDING POLICY NOT TO RECOMMEND WAIVER OF INELIGIBILITY FOR PURPOSE OF ATTENDING CPUSA GATHERINGS. FAILURE TO ISSUE VISAS WOULD REPRESENT NO CHANGE IN US POLICY AND FOR THIS REASON REFUSAL IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT ON US SOVIET RELATIONS. THERE-
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FORE, WHILE WE PREFER, AND FORMALLY RECOMMEND, THAT WAIVERS BE

SOUGHT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT A POLICY OF WORLD-WIDE APPLICABILITY
IS INVOLVED, AND CAN ACCOMMODATE WITHOUT UNDUE PAIN A DECISION NOT
TO SEEK WAIVERS IN THIS INSTANCE.
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